

Mrs. Torrey

18
Tuesday Morning, two o'clock AM.
March 14th 1837.

My Dear Friend

I have just finished packing up, being about to start for Boulogne in Steam Boat at nine o'clock this morning, and I must now hastily close my letters. This, or rather yesterday, has been a busy day with me. I started in the morning to have a look at a few more things of Pursh's at Lambert; but he kept me longer than I liked. He found somewhere a small parcel of plants collected by Eschscholtz in Kotzebue's Voyage, who sent them to Lambert. Lambert gave me all the N. American ones, few to be sure, but interesting. From Lambert I returned by way of the Horticultural Society, to bid good-bye to Lindley & Bentham, but the latter insists upon coming up in the morning to my lodgings to say me off. I have made a fortunate acquisition for him. He told me he saw a few days ago at an auction some copies of Richard's fine work on the Coniferae, but an engagement at the time prevented him from staying to buy a copy of the work for himself, which he imagined would be sold cheap. Mr. Putnam found out who bought up these copies, and obtained one at nearly the price at which they were sold; which I shall have the pleasure of presenting to Bentham ~~for this~~ ^{for this} morning when he calls. - I went to the Brit. Museum, worked hard until four o'clock; but was not able quite to finish. So I left my copy of Gronovius, in which I was making notes, with Mr. Bennett to keep for me until my return in the autumn, and took leave of Brown & Bennett. Went to Mr. Borth's - saw Mrs. & Miss B. who insisted upon giving me a note of introduction to a friend of theirs in Florence. - Went to the City, dined with Putnam, down to Webb-Close Square, took my tea, and bid good-bye to Ward and family, and Mr. Duckett. It being now past nine I returned toward the Strand, called at Putnam's lodgings, took him with me to help me pack up and to give him directions about sending me the parcels to New York.

The parcels I send are —

1st. A small parcel, which Mr Putnam is to send to Dr. Torrey, Care May & Putnam, ~~containing~~ by a private hand, probably Mr. James of Albany, who returns by the Great Western, — containing a little packet of bits from Barbara &c. — some Microscopical objects. — a little parcel for Prof. Bailey, from Duckett, which I will be obliged to Dr. Torrey to forward as soon as may be. — my copies of a work of Owen and one of Havel not intended for you, which you will value, as well for their intrinsic worth as because they have been my companions for some time past. I send you also the meagre beginning of a collection of plants & flowers from the most interesting places I visit. You can't expect much in the winter, and I only send a few leaves &c. — from poor Mary's prison at Lochleven, — from Holyrood, Abbotsford, Melrose Abbey &c. — I hope to make a large and pretty collection of this kind for you before I return, and will simply ask you to keep them until then, when we will procure a very nice portfolio and arrange them. I see that I have left out my bits of wood from Queen Mary's Thorn Tree, and it is now too late to add them, but I will send them from Paris.

Tell Dr. Torrey that the things to be sent by the London packet of the 20th are chiefly these. — A tin case of prints. These all belong to me. I beg you will take care of them and any others I send hereafter. — The big trunk, filled with dried plants, consisting partly of those of Herb. Torr. — the remainder my own acquisitions, pretty extensive and valuable too. There are 4 or 5 packages more than the trunk will hold, which Mr. P. will send to May & Putnam in his own cases. I have all consigned to Mr. Putnam, that they may relieve Dr. T. of all trouble at the Custom-house.

A package for Mr. Sullivan, consisting of Hooker's leaves 2 vol. N. & Am. Prodr Ind. Or. & Hook. fl. Bor. Am. 10 parts. Mr. Putnam will pay duty.

A package to my address, Care Dr. Torrey, containing some botanical books, mostly things given to me, which I thought should pay duty. It contains

Bennett's Horsefield Book which Dr. T. will be very anxious to see, the pamphlets &c. — some of which are for Dr. T. A most interesting paper of Griffith's, given me by Lindlay is among them.

Next, a complete set of Flaxman's Illustrations; which being all plates (4 volumes, 2 Homer, 1 Eschylus, 1 Hesiod) pay no duty. These will afford you much pleasure I know, and also the girls; particularly Eliza, to whom they will be very useful if she goes on well in drawing. Beseech her for my sake to use them very carefully. Tell her they are to be ornaments to Mrs. Gray's drawing-room table one of these days!

Next, parcels of books sent to Mr. Putnam for Michigan University Library, or Scientific books of my own, — which are all purchased and sent together. Nearly every thing now sent is botanical. I wished to send Dr. Torrey a list but have not found time. Among them is Wallich's *Planta Asiaticae*, Rariorae, and a good many other botanical works, but mostly old ones. Mr. P. is instructed to let Dr. Torrey take any and all he chooses, but they are to keep all others till I come. Dr. T. can send for all if he likes.

The Great Western has arrived at Liverpool. No letters for me! I hear that Chancellor Matthews has resigned at last. Do tell me something about it. I regret to hear of the death of the excellent Dr. Fisk.

And now I must bring my letter to a close. for I would like an hour or so of sleep, and have several letters besides to close. — The larger enclosed sheet is for yourself — the smaller consists of crude notes and Memoranda for your dear husband. This sheet must I suppose be joint property; and it will need two of you to read it I fear. My best remembrances to all the household, old & young, high & low; may rich blessings rest upon you. Best love to the girls. Tell them I long to write them — let them look out for a Harve packet — and also to hear from them. For Herbert I feel most especial and peculiar love, and delight to see the mention of his name.

Please continue to write very frequently, while I am in the Continent. Once more Adieu.

Your fond and faithful Gray

PS. ^{Dr. S.}

Mr. Lambert, wished me to-day to give letters of introduction to a friend of his, a Mr. Byse, who is about to take up his abode in New York. As I have not even seen the man avoided it but said that I would mention him in my letter to you. Lambert will probably give him a note to you. Adieu. Your faithful
A.S.

Dr. John Torrey

No. 30, Macdougall St.

New York

Forwarded by Wiley & Putnam

